

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for attachment to an inlet end of a conduit in fluid communication with a remote pump for removing liquid from a pool of liquid, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of substantially spheroidal or ovoidal shaped sections that mount about the inlet end of the conduit, the sections forming a hollow body having a substantially elliptical cross-section, wherein the hollow body freely sinks in a pool of liquid to rest on an underlying surface of the pool of liquid; and

wherein the pair of sections form ~~at least one~~ a single elongate opening extending substantially about the central diameter of the hollow body in a generally horizontal plane between the sections ~~them~~, the single elongate opening allowing liquid to ingress from the pool to the interior of the hollow body and the inlet of the conduit.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim of claim 1 wherein the ~~at least one~~ single elongate opening is located at a circumferential portion of a mid section of the hollow body.

3-6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the opening is adjustable in width.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a pair of corresponding sleeves, each sleeve oriented on one of the pair of sections, and a fastener for use with the pair of sleeves such that the pair of sections are releasably attached to each other.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein one section of the pair of sections is hingedly attached to the other section of the pair of sections at adjacent respective ends of each of the sections.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the hollow body has retaining means which in use retains the inlet for the conduit within the hollow body.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the retaining means is a plurality of upright rods attached to an internal surface of the hollow body.

13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the retaining means is ~~one of~~ a plurality of peripheral ribs extending from ~~an internal surface~~ surfaces of the pair of sections of the hollow body surrounding the pump inlet in use.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the hollow body is provided with an attachment means for attaching a tether.

15. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 which also includes the pump inlet.

16 - 17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein the inlet conduit is a hose, and provides fluid communication between the pump inlet and the remote pump.

19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15 further comprising a remote pump located on dry land or a pontoon or raft structure.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pump inlet is protected by a strainer or gauze to prevent particulate matter entering the pump inlet.

23. (previously presented) A submersible apparatus for removing liquid from a pool of water using an external pump and an inlet conduit, said apparatus comprising:

a pair of arcuate sections that when in use mount about an inlet conduit for a pump to form a hollow body, the pair of sections forming at least one opening located along the junction between the pair of sections for a majority of the outer perimeter of the hollow body, allowing liquid to flow radially into the hollow body;

wherein one section of the pair of sections is hingedly attached to the other section of the pair of sections.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the width of the at least one openings is adjustable.

26. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a pivotal connector on the hollow body for use with the conduit such that the hollow body automatically orients itself as it sinks to lie flat on the underlying surface of the pool of liquid.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elliptical cross section causes the hollow body to automatically orient itself when in contact with the underlying surface of the pool of liquid such that the at least one opening lies generally parallel with the underlying surface.

28. (new) An apparatus for attachment to an inlet end of a conduit in fluid communication with a remote pump for removing liquid from a pool of liquid, the apparatus comprising:

a pair of shallow ovoidal sections that mount about the inlet end of the conduit, each section having an arcuate interior surface, the sections forming a hollow body having a substantially elliptical cross-section, wherein the hollow body freely sinks in a pool of liquid to rest on an underlying surface of the pool of liquid;

a first series of coaxial peripheral ribs extending from an interior surface of one of the shallow ovoidal sections, each rib having a continuous ovoidal shape;

a second series of coaxial peripheral ribs extending from an interior surface of the other of the shallow ovoidal sections, each rib having a continuous ovoidal shape;

a hinge assembly connecting the pair of shallow ovoidal sections at adjacent peripheral edges of each section along the central diameter of the hollow body; and

wherein the pair of sections form a single elongate opening extending about a majority of the central diameter of the hollow body in a generally horizontal plane between the sections, the single elongate opening allowing liquid to ingress from the pool to the interior of the hollow body and the inlet of the conduit;

wherein the arcuate interior surface of the sections provides for laminar flow of liquid between the opening and the inlet end of the conduit within the hollow body.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the area of the opening is 10-20 times larger than the area of the inlet end of the conduit, thereby providing a lower velocity of the liquid through the opening compared to the velocity of the liquid through the inlet end of the conduit.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising a casing positioning about the inlet to the conduit within the interior of the hollow body and spaced apart from the opening, the casing having a strainer to prevent particle from entering the conduit from the interior of the hollow body and the pool of liquid.